

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail system, comprising:

- receiving a facsimile at a voicemail system;
- storing said facsimile in a recipient voice mailbox;
- interpreting elements of a facsimile, said interpreting performed by optical character recognition software; and
- upon receiving a request by a voicemail recipient to access said voice mailbox:
 - converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;
 - formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and
 - presenting said voicemail facsimile notification to a communications device associated with said voicemail recipient.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said elements are selected from a header in said facsimile.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said header includes:

- a sender's facsimile number;
- a time and date of said facsimile transmission; and
- a number of pages transmitted.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said header further comprises at least one of:

- a sender's name; and
- a sender's organization.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting said voicemail facsimile notification further includes presenting a scripted audio message along with said voicemail facsimile notification.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting options to said recipient operable for performing at least one of:

- printing said facsimile;
- deleting said facsimile from said recipient voice mailbox;
- storing said facsimile in said recipient voice mailbox for later retrieval; and
- forwarding said facsimile to a networked fax-capable voice mailbox.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said communications device comprises at least one of:

- a wireless remote telephone;
- a wireline remote telephone;
- a voice over Internet telephone; and
- a remote computer.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said facsimile is transmitted via at least one of:

- a facsimile machine;
- a facsimile-enabled computer;
- a facsimile-enabled voicemail system; and
- a personal digital assistant.

9. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail system, said storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

- receiving a facsimile at a voicemail system;
- storing said facsimile in a recipient voice mailbox;
- interpreting elements of a facsimile located in said facsimile, said interpreting performed by optical character recognition software; and
- upon receiving a request by a voicemail recipient to access said voice mailbox:
 - converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;
 - formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and
 - presenting said voicemail facsimile notification of said facsimile to a communications device associated with said voicemail recipient.

10. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein said elements are selected from a header in said facsimile.

11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein said header includes:

- a sender's facsimile number;
- a time and date of said facsimile transmission; and
- a number of pages transmitted.

12. The storage medium of claim 2, wherein said header further comprises at least one of:

- a sender's name; and
- a sender's organization.

13. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein said presenting said voicemail facsimile notification further includes presenting a scripted audio message along with said voicemail facsimile notification.

14. The storage medium of claim 9, further comprising presenting options to said recipient operable for performing at least one of:

- printing said facsimile;
- deleting said facsimile from said recipient voice mailbox;
- storing said facsimile in said recipient voice mailbox for later retrieval; and
- forwarding said facsimile to a networked fax-capable voice mailbox.

15. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein said communications device comprises at least one of:

- a wireless remote telephone;
- a wireline remote telephone;
- a voice over Internet telephone; and
- a remote computer.

16. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein said facsimile is transmitted via at least one of:

- a facsimile machine;
- a facsimile-enabled computer;
- a facsimile-enabled voicemail system; and
- a personal digital assistant.

17. A communications network system for providing comprehensive facsimile information within a voicemail system, comprising:

- a server executing a voicemail system that includes at least one voice mailbox;
- a comprehensive voicemail tool executing on said server, said comprehensive voicemail tool including optical character recognition software and a text-to-speech engine;

- a link to a facsimile sending device;
- a link to a remote facsimile recipient device; and
- a facsimile received at said voicemail system, said facsimile transmitted by said facsimile sending device;

wherein said comprehensive voicemail tool performs:

- storing said facsimile in said at least one voice mailbox;
- interpreting elements of said facsimile using said optical character recognition software; and
- upon receiving a request by a facsimile recipient to access said voice mailbox:
 - converting interpreted elements of said facsimile into audible speech via a text-to-speech engine;
 - formatting converted elements resulting in a voicemail facsimile notification; and
 - presenting said voicemail facsimile notification elements of said facsimile to said facsimile recipient.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein said elements are selected from a header in said facsimile.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein said header includes:

- a sender's facsimile number;
- a time and date of said facsimile transmission; and
- a number of pages transmitted.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said header further comprises at least one of:

- a sender's name; and
- a sender's organization.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein said voicemail facsimile notification further includes a scripted audio message along with said voicemail facsimile notification.

22. The communications network system of claim 17, wherein said remote facsimile recipient device comprises at least one of:

- a wireless telephone;
- a wireline telephone;
- a voice over Internet telephone; and
- a computer.

23. The communications network system of claim 17, wherein said facsimile sending device comprises at least one of:

- a facsimile machine;
- a facsimile-enabled computer;
- a facsimile-enabled voicemail system; and
- a personal digital assistant.

24. The communications network system of claim 17, wherein said communications network comprises at least one of:

- a public switched telephone network;
- an Internet network;
- a radio network; and
- a VoIP network.